

ANALYSIS OF RUTGERS-NEWARK DATA

It should be noted at the outset that CIRP included the Rutgers-Newark campus in the "highly selective public university" stratum. Given the different character and mission of some of the institutions included in this stratum (see Attachment C), the following comparisons between Rutgers-Newark and peer institution students should be viewed cautiously.

The responses to questions regarding **Selection of College** (Items A1-A5) reveal that Rutgers-Newark and peer institution students are somewhat similar. The majority of both Rutgers-Newark students and peer institution students state that their institution is their first choice (62% and 63%, respectively). However, the most important reasons in deciding to go to college differ slightly for Rutgers-Newark and its peer institutions. Rutgers-Newark students are more likely to be motivated to get training for a specific career (81% vs. 66%), to be able to make more money (76% vs. 69%), to get a better job (74% vs. 69%), and to gain a general education (74% vs. 68%).

Rutgers-Newark students and peer institution students cite similar reasons for selecting their institutions: its good academic reputation (64% and 69%, respectively), its graduates get good jobs (57% and 58%, respectively), and because its graduates are admitted to top graduate/professional schools (39% and 44%, respectively). However, Rutgers-Newark students are much more likely to cite two additional reasons: low tuition and the desire to remain close to home (42% vs. 31% and 36% vs. 14%, respectively).

Rutgers-Newark students report slightly more concern about college financing. Over half of both Rutgers-Newark students and peer institution students report some concern about financing college (59% and 51%, respectively), and slightly more Rutgers-

Newark students say it was a major concern (14% vs. 11%). Although the majority of Rutgers-Newark students plan to receive some financial aid from parents or family (78%), more students at the peer institutions plan on receiving familial support (88%). More Rutgers-Newark students than peer-institution students plan to rely on a part-time job off-campus as a source for educational expenses (32% vs. 17%, respectively) while fewer intend to use savings from summer work (37% vs. 53%).

In responding to questions developed for Rutgers students only (Items A6-A10), Rutgers-Newark students report which sources of information about college selection were important to them. More students indicate the importance of the World Wide Web compared to magazine ratings or college guides (27% vs. 19% each for the other two). However, an even larger percentage report that they relied on other sources of information not listed in the survey (35%). Rutgers' position as a major research university influenced the decision to attend to "a huge degree" for 13 percent of the respondents, to "a moderate degree" for 21 percent, to "a small degree" for 32 percent, and only 33 percent report it having no influence at all. "Renowned faculty" was cited as the most appealing aspect of Rutgers as a major research university by 32 percent of Rutgers-Newark students, while "opportunity to obtain an internship" and "breadth of the academic program" were each cited by 23%. Rutgers-Newark students from New Jersey who were accepted at colleges out of state but elected to stay in New Jersey indicate **A**cost@(28%) and **A**high academic reputation@(24%) as their most important reasons for selecting Rutgers; students not from New Jersey also note "cost" (60%) and **A**high academic reputation@(25%) as their top reasons for coming to New Jersey and attending Rutgers.

With respect to **Educational and Career Plans** (Items B1-B4), peer institution

students plan on attaining a postbaccalaureate degree at a higher rate than students from Rutgers-Newark (85% vs. 75%, respectively). A similar percentage of peer institution students and Rutgers-Newark students plan to obtain a Masters degree (42% and 39%, respectively) and other professional and terminal degrees, including Ph.D., Ed.D., medical, and law degrees (43% vs. 36%, respectively). Of those students indicating that they intend to pursue postbaccalaureate degrees, a slightly higher percentage of Rutgers-Newark students (35%) than peer institution students (31%) intend to do so at their current institution.

The most probable undergraduate major field of study at Rutgers-Newark was professional fields¹ (20%). This was less frequently cited by peer institution students (12%). Business and biological sciences were the second and third most probable majors at Rutgers-Newark (17% and 14%), with similar rates of students from peer institutions intending to go into those fields (18% and 12%).

With regard to **Student Attitudes and Background** (Items C1-C15), Rutgers-Newark students are more likely than peer institution students to consider financial success an essential or very important objective to achieve (86% vs. 75%), while simultaneously being more likely to cite helping others in difficulty as important (72% vs. 62%). Students at Rutgers-Newark are slightly more likely to see themselves as "middle-of-the-road" on political issues (54%) compared to students at peer institutions (50%) and slightly less likely to see themselves as "conservative" (13% vs. 16%, respectively).

Rutgers-Newark students are much more ethnically diverse than peer institution

¹ Professional fields include architecture/urban planning, home economics, health technology, library/archival science, nursing, pharmacy, pre-dental/medical/veterinarian, occupational/physical/speech therapy, and other professional.

students. There is a higher percentage of students at Rutgers-Newark who are Asian American (33%), Latino (16%), and African American (13%) compared to students at peer institutions (21%, 6%, and 7%, respectively).² Rutgers-Newark students were more likely to report socializing with people of a different ethnic group (71% vs. 64%). Peer institution students report considerably higher parental income than Rutgers-Newark students. Twenty-eight percent of Rutgers-Newark students report parental income of less than \$30,000 compared to 17 percent of peer institution students, while a far lower percentage of Rutgers-Newark students report parental income exceeding \$100,000 (12%) compared to peer institution students (32%). Only 51 percent of Rutgers-Newark students state that they are native English speaking, while 82 percent of peer institution students indicate that their native language is English.

Mathematics seems to be the most difficult subject for students at both institutions. Nine percent of Rutgers-Newark students and 10 percent of peer institution students report having had remedial work in mathematics, and 17 percent and 19 percent of each group report that they will need remedial work in mathematics.

The two groups were similar in their self-ratings, except in terms of academic self-confidence. Rutgers-Newark students were less likely to rate themselves above average or in the highest 10 percent of people their age in academic ability (63% compared to 83% at peer institutions). Not surprisingly, they were also less likely to rate themselves above average or in the top 10 percent in terms of intellectual self-confidence (55% vs. 65% at

² In answering the question about racial background, students may have selected more than one category. Consequently, the percentages may add to more than one hundred percent when the total percentage of minority students is added to the percentage of white students. This is true for both Rutgers-Newark and its peer institutions.

peer institutions).

In terms of the time spent in various activities over the past year, the two groups shared many similarities. One notable difference is that Rutgers-Newark students were less likely to report spending sixteen or more hours per week socializing with friends (23% vs. 32% at peer institutions) and more likely to report spending sixteen or more hours per week working for pay (42% vs. 27%).

NOTE: The percentages for Rutgers University on the comparison table (Attachment A) may not match corresponding percentages on Attachment B (official CIRP report) for both Rutgers-Newark and Rutgers-New Brunswick reports. This is because respondents from the Rutgers University School of Nursing were reported in the Rutgers-Newark comparison table but included in the Rutgers-New Brunswick CIRP report.
